**Teacher**: Janiese Johnson

**Date:** June 23, 2010

**Lesson Title/Topic:** The Appalachian and Rocky Mountain regions

**Estimated time:** Three days

**Grade Level**: 3rd

**Learner characteristics/Background knowledge:**

Cited directly from the website E:\5th graders characteristics.mht by Susan Robinson.

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**Physical:**

* Large muscle development
* Desperately need outdoor time and physical challenge
* Handwriting often sloppier than at nine
* Snacks and rest periods helpful for growing bodies

**Social:**

* Fairness issues peak and can be solved!
* Quick anger-quick to forgive
* Generally content
* Work very well in groups
* Enjoy both family and peers
* Like clubs, activities, sports
* Usually truthful; developing more mature sense of right and wrong, good at solving social issues

**Language:**

* Good listeners, actively receptive
* Voracious readers
* Expressive, talkative, like to explain
* Cooperative and competitive
* Friendly, generally happy

**Cognitive:**

* Memorization productive
* Increased ability to abstract
* Likes rules and logic
* Classification and collections of interest; likes to organize
* Able to concentrate, read for extended periods
* Good problem solvers
* Proud of academic products

**Objectives/Goals:** The student will be able to find and identify the Appalachian and Rocky mountain regions.

**GPS:** **SS3G1 The student will locate major topographical features.**

b. Identify major mountain ranges of the United States of America: Appalachian, Rocky

**Materials/Resources**: Websites, US maps, puzzles, fact flash cards, graphic organizers.

**Presentation:** These students have prior knowledge of the mountain ranges from their geography readings. The teacher will begin by showing a united streaming movie clip of the two mountain regions while displaying a US map. The movie clip to be used is the following:

<http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=D0AFCAE8-5387-4D7F-86C9-7E023DD0700D&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US>

<http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=F87B0ACE-C5A5-44CE-8F98-0DC6D2C837E9&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US>

Next, the teacher will ask students to locate the two mountain regions on the map. The students will identify the two mountain regions and share factual information that they can recall from the video such as rivers, lakes, waterfalls, trails, valleys, highest points, major highways, bordering states, countries, altitude and total length in miles. The teacher will use a smart board to show actual pictures of the factual information as well as highlight some of the differences between the two regions. The students will then discuss as a whole class what they would see if they took a hike along a trail in one of the mountain regions.

**Content Development/Guided Study:** The students will break up into groups of four and play a game using fact flash cards or work a puzzle of the U.S. that distinguishes the two mountain regions. The student groups will switch off and do the other activity. Then the students will fill out two brainstorming type graphic organizers requiring facts about each of the regions.

Next class period, the students will role play as either a guide or a visitor to each of the mountain ranges. The guide will try an answer as many questions as possible about one of the regions. The visitor needs to ask questions pertaining to that one specific region of which they are visiting.

The following day, the students will also have an opportunity to create a song, poem or story that depicts some of the major differences between the two regions.

All students will color a US map identifying the two regions.

**Summary/Closure**: The students learned how to locate on a map the Rocky and Appalachian mountain regions. Also the students can identify the mountain ranges based of specific features.

**Evaluation/Assessment:** On the final day, the students will take a short assessment which will show their ability to identify the Appalachian and Rocky mountain ranges.The students will also be assessed by a student-teacher created rubric for their participation, creativity and understanding of the objective.

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|  | **Beginning** | **Developing** | **Accomplished** | **Score 1-3** |
| **Participation level** | Difficulty staying on task.  No participation with the group. | Able to complete their task on time.  Participates with group. | Complete the required task on time and participates well with the group. |  |
| **Creativity** | Difficulty choosing and using the correct facts for each region. | Able to choose and use correct facts for each region.  Making a satisfactory attempt to match the correct information with each area. | Gives examples showing the objectives and able to communicate information about the two regions that would help locate them. |  |
| **Understanding of task** | Difficulty understanding and communicating the objective. | Able to communicate the objective with a minimum of five examples. | Communicates the objective with more than five examples. |  |